Edmonton International Business Opportunities Report

1984

85-3383/

EDMONTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Edmonton Economic Development Authority has been established to promote and develop the Edmonton economy. It is responsible to support the development of local industry as well as attract new economic growth. The Authority's goal is to achieve a diversified and stable economic base for Edmonton.

Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Location 2

Economic Growth – An Alberta Perspective 3

Natural Resource Development Opportunities 4

Manufacturing Opportunities 6

Retail Trade and Service Opportunities ..8

Population and Labour Profile 9

Corporate Centre 10

Transportation Services 10

Government 11

Provincial Tax Rates 12

International Trade 13

Exchange Guidelines and Investment Climate 15

Entrepreneurial – Immigration Guidelines 17

Government Incentives for Business 17

Edmonton's Quality of Life 18

Edmonton, Alberta's capital, is known as "Canada's City of Opportunities."

Introduction

The world community has played an important role in the development of the Canadian economy. As the seventh largest trading nation, Canada has developed extensive trade and cultural relations with other nations. International investment has made a major contribution to the growth and development of the Canadian economy. Canada must continue to promote and expand its economic and cultural interface with other nations.

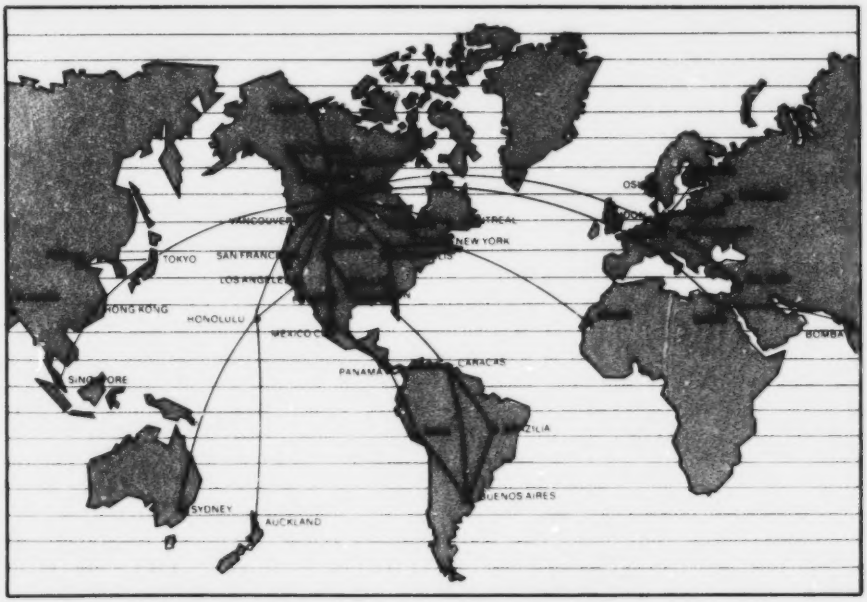
The province of Alberta represents a significant component of the Canadian economy. The majority of Canada's hydrocarbon energy resources are situated within Alberta. Extensive agricultural production has been developed.

Alberta is rapidly expanding its export business activities. Total Alberta exports, domestic and international, were valued at $25.5 billion in 1982, compared with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimated to be $52.2 billion.

Extensive economic growth will occur within the Alberta economy over the coming decade. This growth will provide numerous business investment and trade opportunities. International investment has played a significant role in developing the Alberta economy. The Government of Alberta actively supports and encourages international trade and investment.

Edmonton is the capital of Alberta and the province's largest metropolitan city. The city's strategic location offers many economic advantages and benefits. Edmonton accounts for a major portion of the Alberta economy, including 49% of the province's manufacturing output.

This publication highlights Edmonton's economic structure and performance. The international business community is encouraged to consider and examine the many business opportunities available in our area. Edmonton welcomes international trade and business investment.



Flying time from major world centres:

Hong Kong	15 hrs. 20 min.
Tokyo	11 hrs. 15 min.
Sydney	17 hrs. 30 min.
Rome	10 hrs. 15 min.
Paris	10 hrs. 30 min.
London	8 hrs.
Amsterdam	8 hrs. 20 min.
Frankfurt	8 hrs. 45 min.
New York	4 hrs. 45 min.
Los Angeles	3 hrs. 30 min.
San Francisco	3 hrs.
Denver	2 hrs. 15 min.
Houston	4 hrs. 30 min.
Miami	6 hrs.
Chicago	4 hrs. 30 min.
Toronto	3 hrs. 30 min.
Montreal	4 hrs.
Vancouver	1 hr. 20 min.

Location

Edmonton is located at the geographical centre of western Canada. This strategic location gives Edmonton an advantage as a corporate, manufacturing and distribution centre within western Canada. Edmonton is the focal point of oil, gas and other important resource industries.

Edmonton's primary market area includes western Canada, Canada's northern resource areas and western United States.

Economic Growth – An Alberta Perspective

The Alberta economy has traditionally been fueled by the primary resource sectors. Edmonton's proximity to Alberta's resource base makes it an ideal location for new or expanded business ventures in Western Canada. The Edmonton service area contains the majority of Alberta's producing oil fields, gas fields, coal deposits and petrochemical complexes.

Since the early 1970's Alberta's real rate of growth has exceeded 6% per annum, well above the Canadian average. From 1970 to 1982 Alberta's share of Canada's GDP grew from 8.0% to 14.4%. In 1970 Alberta's share of Western Canadian GDP was 31.2%. By 1982 this figure had risen to 41.6%. Alberta's GDP in 1982 was over $53 billion representing a per capita figure of $22,462, a 50% advantage over the Canadian average of $15,008 per capita.

Gross Domestic Product
($ millions)

	Alberta	Western Canada	Alberta % of Western Canada
1978	28,643	75,732	37.8
1979	34,811	89,088	39.1
1980	42,126	104,048	40.5
1981	48,806	120,454	40.5
1982	53,056	127,397	41.6

Source: Statistics Canada – Catalogue #13-213

A recent survey of major industrial projects reveals that over $115 billion of investment is currently under construction or projected for development in western Canada by 1994. Of this total, $62 billion (or 54.1%) is located within the Edmonton service area. For a copy of the report, **Western Canadian Industrial Projects Directory,** contact the Edmonton Economic Development Authority. The number and magnitude of these industrial projects clearly demonstrates that the Edmonton area provides the greatest potential for economic development in western Canada.

Edmonton's service area is projected to receive $62 billion of new industrial investment between now and 1994.

Natural Resource Development Opportunities

Resource development is the mainstay of western Canada's economy. Vast resource wealth and important markets are reflected in Edmonton's economy.

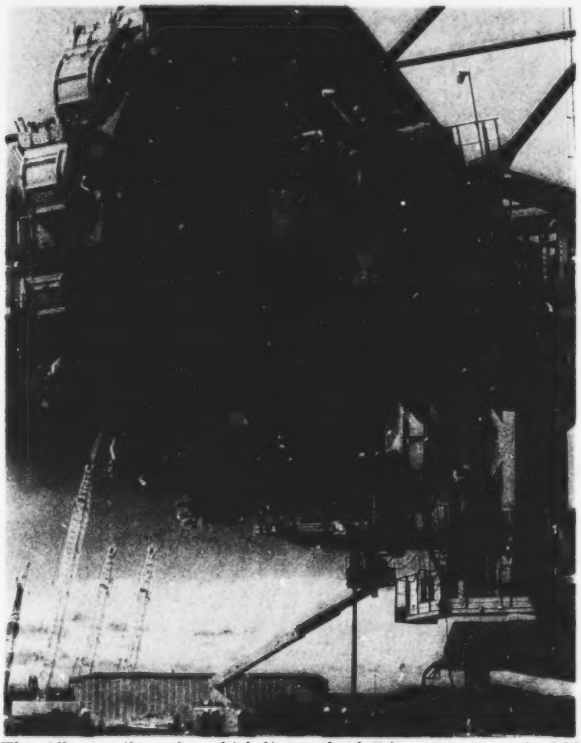
Petroleum Industry

Eighty-five per cent of Canada's existing conventional oil reserves, 650 million cubic metres (4 billion barrels), are located in Alberta. Over 80% of Alberta's producing oil wells are located in the Edmonton market area, while the city's refineries produce 90% of the province's petroleum products. Edmonton is recognized as the oil production and distribution centre of Canada.

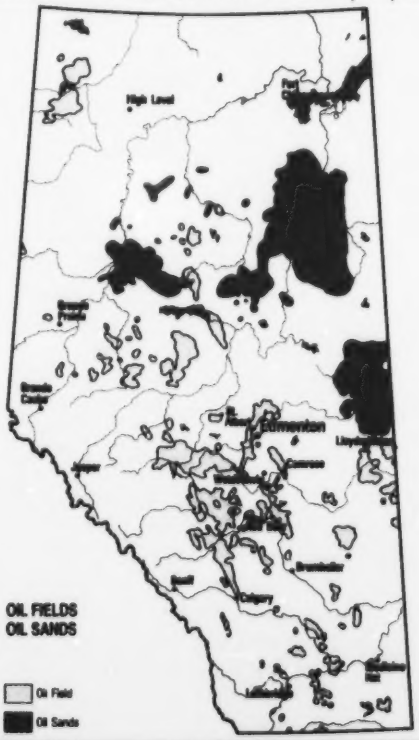
To the north of Edmonton lie the Alberta oil sands which contain an estimated 160 billion cubic metres (1 trillion barrels) of oil. Of this amount, it is expected that between 30% to 40% may ultimately be recovered. This is equivalent to more than one half of the world's conventional oil reserves. Alberta accounts for 72% of Canada's natural gas reserves estimated at 1.85 trillion cubic metres (65.4 trillion cubic feet).

Coal Industry

Alberta's established coal reserves of 18.0 billion tonnes represent more than 70% of Canada's recoverable reserves. The majority of Alberta's production is in close proximity to Edmonton. Exports of coal to international markets are increasing.



The Alberta oil sands, which lie north of Edmonton, contain 160 billion cubic metres (1 trillion barrels) of in place reserves.



Agriculture and Food Processing

Agriculture is Alberta's second largest resource industry. Food processing is Edmonton's second largest manufacturing sector. In 1983, Alberta farm receipts totalled $4.0 billion. The Edmonton market area accounts for more than two-thirds of the province's farm operations.

Petrochemical Industry

Alberta is continuing to develop world-scale petrochemical plants. Surrounding Edmonton are 25 existing or proposed petrochemical plants. This is 70% of the provincial total. More than $8 billion in investment in this industry is currently underway or proposed. The majority of petrochemical investment is taking place in the Edmonton market region.

Forestry

The forestry sector of Alberta has enormous growth potential. Over two-thirds of the province is forested. The majority of the province's forest reserves lie to the north and west of Edmonton. This places the city in an enviable position for forest products development.

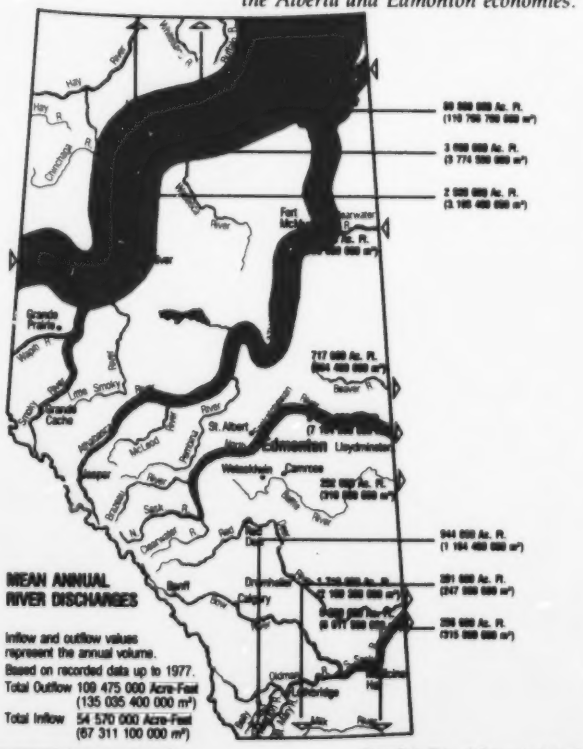
Minerals

Edmonton has ready access to an abundant supply of minerals for construction and industrial use. Resources in the immediate vicinity of the city include industrial sands, brick clay, lightweight aggregate, limestone marl, stoneware clay, and bentonite.

Water

More than 90% of the water flow in Alberta is in the northern part of the province, which is Edmonton's service area. The city, located on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River, has ready access to an ample supply of high-quality, low-cost, water.

Agriculture is an important component of the Alberta and Edmonton economies.



Manufacturing Opportunities

Edmonton is the major manufacturing centre in Alberta. The Metro Edmonton area accounted for 49% of Alberta's manufacturing output of $12.3 billion in 1983.

Edmonton provides an effective location in western Canada to take advantage of manufacturing opportunities. The current population of Canada's western provinces exceeds seven million people. This market, plus the opportunity to utilize the export potential to the United States, can be reached from an Edmonton base.

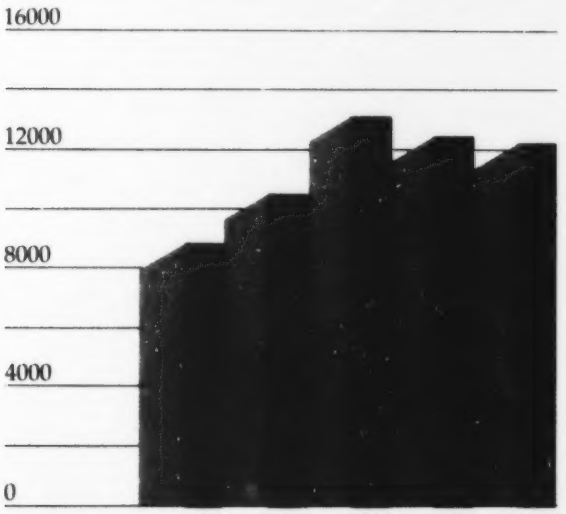
Manufacturing opportunities exist in the Edmonton market area for a broad range of products. The following products have been identified for joint-venture operations, licensing arrangements or direct investment.

- Electrical and electronic products and appliances
- Film industry products and services
- Plastic fabricating products and materials
- Petrochemicals and derivatives
- Food products and packaging
- Health care products, pharmaceuticals and equipment
- Agricultural machinery, products and equipment
- Machinery and metal working equipment and products
- Material handling equipment, parts and components
- Transportation vehicles, parts and assemblies
- Forest products and equipment

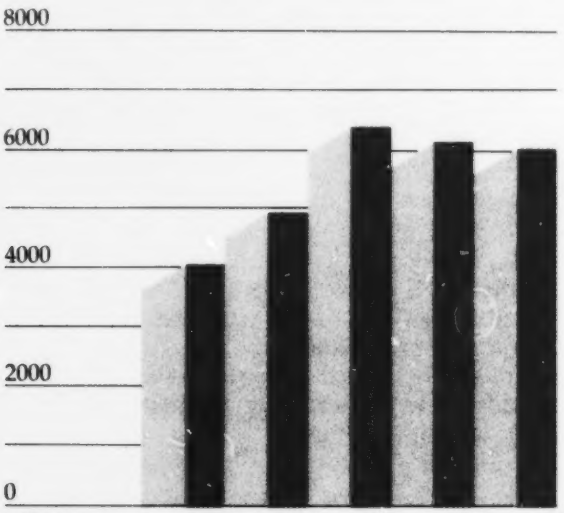
In 1983, Metro Edmonton manufacturing shipments were valued at $6,040 million. For a copy of the **Metro Edmonton Manufacturing and Distribution Report** contact the Edmonton Economic Development Authority.

Edmonton's manufacturing industry is located on approximately 12,140 hectares (30,000 acres) of industrially zoned land. There are more than 50 industrial areas and parks in the Metro Edmonton region, providing a range of pricing and service options.

Value of Manufacturing Shipments – 1979 – 1983
($ millions)



	1979	1980	1981	1982	*1983
Alberta	8,949	10,521	13,275	12,528	12,281
% Change	20.5	17.6	26.2	–5.6	–2.0



*Metro Edmonton	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
	4,084	4,985	6,363	6,142	6,040
% Change	18.7	22.1	27.6	–3.5	–1.7

In 1983 Metro Edmonton accounted for 49.2% of Alberta's manufacturing output.

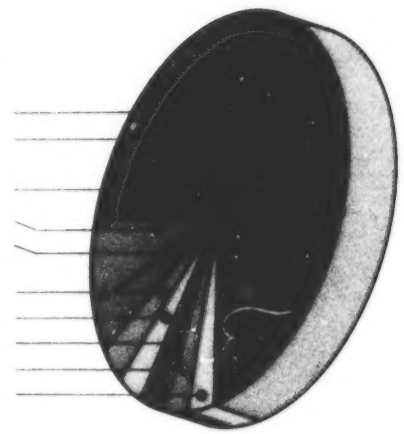
* Edmonton Economic Development Authority estimates

Source: Alberta Bureau of Statistics – Alberta Statistical Review

Edmonton provides opportunities for manufacturing a broad range of products.

1983 Manufactured Goods By Major Sectors
Metro Edmonton
($ thousands)

	Value*	% of Total
Petroleum & Coal	3,038,109	50.3
Food & Beverage	781,288	12.9
Chemical and Chemical Products	660,507	10.9
Primary Metal and Machinery	463,473	7.7
Metal Fabricating	288,830	4.8
Printing, Publishing and Paper Industries	203,051	3.4
Non-Metallic Mineral Products	182,271	3.0
Textiles and Clothing	141,467	2.3
Wood Products & Furniture	126,007	2.1
Miscellaneous	154,767	2.6
Total	6,039,770	



* Edmonton Economic Development Authority estimates

Source: Alberta Bureau of Statistics – Alberta Principal Manufacturing Statistics
Alberta Bureau of Statistics – Alberta Statistical Review, 3rd Quarter 1983

Retail Trade and Service Opportunities

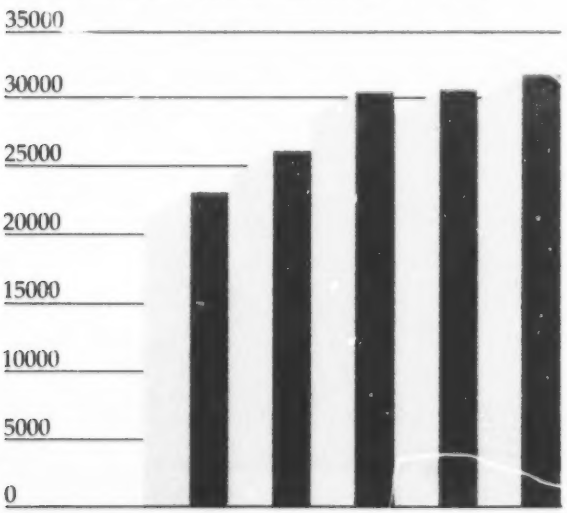
The value of retail and service trade in western Canada is $52 billion annually. The majority of retail products sold in western Canada are manufactured in eastern Canada or imported from other countries. This industry provides major manufacturing and distribution opportunities. Edmonton's central location and economic infrastructure provide significant advantages and benefits to western Canadian retail manufacturing and distribution operations. For a copy of the **Metro Edmonton Manufacturing and Distribution Report** contact the Edmonton Economic Development Authority.

Expenditure on retail goods and services in Metro Edmonton was valued at $6.4 billion in 1983 and is fourth highest among Canadian cities. Including 1983, the five year average annual growth in retail and services was 9.1%.

Edmonton's 25 suburban shopping centres have over 630,000 square metres (6,800,000 square feet) of retail space. For a copy of the **Metro Edmonton Market Review**, contact the Edmonton Economic Development Authority.

West Edmonton Mall, Canada's largest retail shopping and entertainment complex, is just one of Edmonton's many retail facilities.

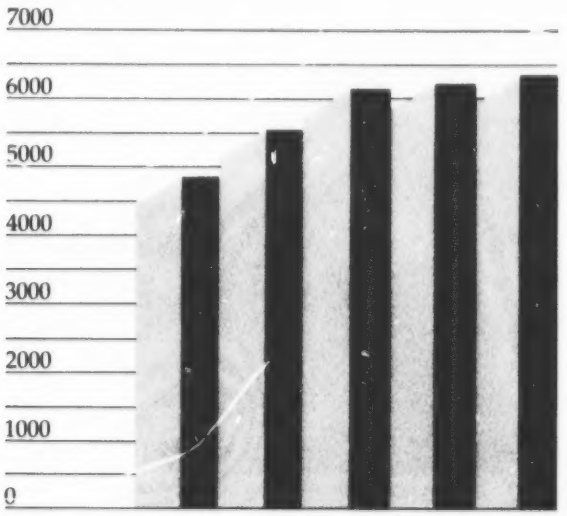
Retail Sales in Western Canada 1979 – 1983



Total Sales	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
($ millions)	23,386	26,600	30,360	30,579	31,708
% Growth	13.6	13.7	14.1	0.7	3.7

Source: Alberta Bureau of Statistics – Alberta Statistical Review, Fourth Quarter 1983
Statistics Canada – Catalogue #63-005

Metro Edmonton
Value of Retail and Service Trade 1979 – 1983
($ millions)



*Metro	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Edmonton	4,887	5,584	6,153	6,209	6,383
% Change	17.3	14.3	10.2	0.9	2.8

In 1983 Metro Edmonton accounted for 34.7% of Alberta's retail and service trade.
* Edmonton Economic Development Authority estimates
Source: Alberta Bureau of Statistics – Alberta Retail Trade Statistics

Population and Labour Profile

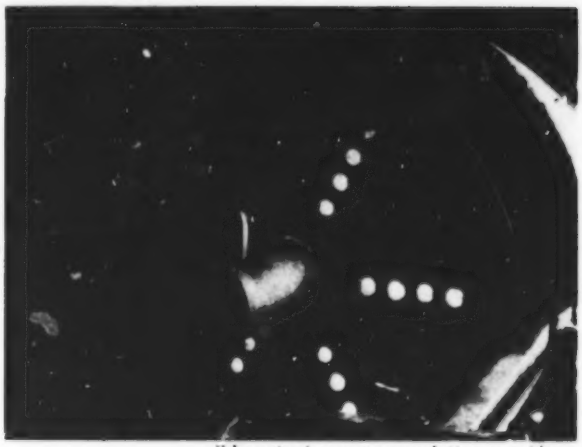
Edmonton is both the provincial capital and the most important industrial city in the province of Alberta. Metropolitan Edmonton is the largest population centre between Toronto and Vancouver, with an average annual growth rate of over 3% over the past decade.

From 1977 to mid-1981, Alberta's population grew by over 300,000 people to reach a total of 2.3 million. This represents an annual rate of growth of 3.5%, which was greater than that of any other province.

The population base of western Canada is expected to grow over the next two decades. This growing population represents an important market opportunity for the manufacturing and the distribution of many types of consumer products.

Edmonton's potential labour force is 500,000 people. Seventy-one per cent of this labour force is between the ages of 15 and 44. The result is a young and active work force with an overall labour participation rate of over 70%.

Edmonton's labour force is highly educated and skilled. Forty per cent of the total labour force has post-secondary education.



Edmonton's young population provides a large well-educated labour force.

Metro Edmonton
Population by Age & Sex – 1983*

Age	Male	% of Total	Female	% of Total	Sub Total	% of Total	Cumulative Total	% Cumulative
0-4	28,854	3.9	27,375	3.7	56,229	7.6	56,229	7.6
5-14	53,269	7.2	51,790	7.0	105,059	14.2	161,288	21.8
15-24	85,823	11.6	82,123	11.1	167,946	27.7	329,234	44.5
25-44	123,555	16.7	116,897	15.8	240.452	32.5	569,686	77.0
45-64	59,928	8.1	60,668	8.2	120,596	16.3	690,282	93.3
65 +	20,716	2.8	28,854	3.9	49,570	6.7	739,852	100.0
Total	372,145	50.3	367,707	49.7	739,852	100.0		

* Edmonton Economic Development Authority estimates

Source: Alberta Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission
Statistics Canada – 1981 Census of Canada

Corporate Centre

Edmonton's role as a major western Canadian corporate centre is acknowledged by the growth of the downtown business district.

Since 1975, thirty-seven new office buildings have been built, adding 695,000 square metres (7.5 million square feet) of office space. The supply of office space has grown by 266% within the past 10 years.

Edmonton's downtown skyline reflects the city's status as a corporate centre.

Transportation Services

Edmonton is strategically situated at the centre of several major highways. It is on the Yellowhead Interprovincial Highway between Winnipeg and Vancouver, a route that has seen increased traffic because of the low grades and favourable climatic conditions. Fuel and time savings on this route have been significant enough to warrant major trucking firms to adopt the Yellowhead Route to transport freight to and from the Pacific coast.

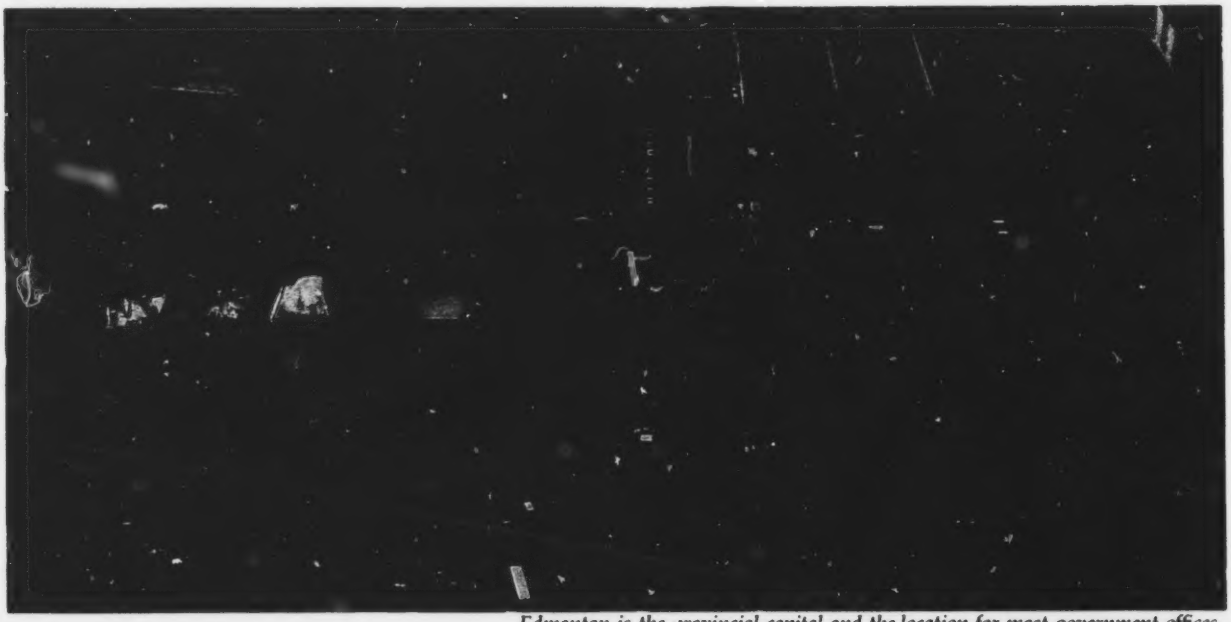
Provincial highways provide access to central and southern Alberta, and the American market. Edmonton is the terminus for the Alaska and Mackenzie Highways serving Canada's northern resource areas.

Edmonton has two major commercial airports. The Edmonton International Airport accommodates domestic and international air traffic. Nine major airlines provide extensive passenger and air cargo services. The Edmonton Municipal Airport accommodates provincial air passenger traffic and corporate aviation.

Edmonton's municipal airport is one of two major commercial airports serving the region.

Edmonton is served by a comprehensive national rail network. The Canadian National Railway mainline to Vancouver passes through Edmonton. Branch lines serve northern Alberta's agricultural, energy and mineral resource areas. Canadian Pacific Railway operates to points south of Edmonton. Existing rail facilities are being expanded to more than double the present freight capacity within the next 10 years.

Over the next 10 years Edmonton's rail-freight capacity is expected to double.



Edmonton is the provincial capital and the location for most government offices.

Government

Canada has three levels of government: federal, provincial and municipal.

The federal government's responsibilities include international trade and commerce, defense, banking legislation, and criminal law. The federal government's major revenue sources are personal and corporate income taxes, excise taxes, and resource taxes.

The Alberta provincial government has legislative authority with respect to education, municipal government, labour matters, social services, and property and civil rights within the province. Funding is received primarily from resource royalties and personal and corporate income taxes.

Edmonton's municipal government deals with local matters such as police and fire protection, roads, public transportation, and urban planning. Revenue is received from property taxes, business taxes, utilities and provincial grants.

Edmonton is governed by an elected mayor and city council. The City of Edmonton has an AA credit rating and a yearly capital and operating budget approaching $1 billion.

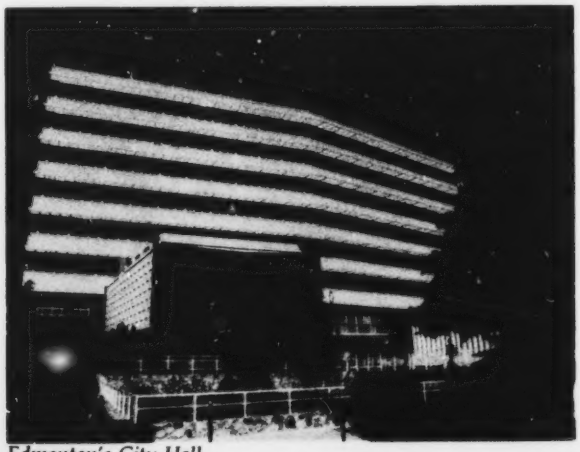
Alberta offers the most favourable tax rates in Canada. Albertans pay no gasoline or retail sales taxes and enjoy the lowest income taxes in the country. There are no inheritance or succession taxes levied in Alberta. This has been an important consideration for families concerned with estate planning.

Alberta, along with Saskatchewan, are the only provinces in which no taxes on ground fuel are imposed. In the other provinces, fuel taxes are 20% or more. A family with a $30,000 gross income in Alberta, for example, pays $1,890 in total provincial taxes. The same family would pay more than $2,700 in British Columbia and $3,300 in Ontario.

Alberta's low tax rates are made possible by government revenues earned from the development of natural resources.

Provincial Tax Rates

Alberta offers significant tax benefits compared to other Canadian provinces. Personal income tax is applied by provinces as a percentage of the federal income tax. The following chart identifies some of Alberta's tax advantages.



Edmonton's City Hall.

Provincial Tax Rates – 1984

	Personal Income Tax		Corporate Income Tax			
	Basic Rate	High Income Surtax	Small Business Rate	General Rate	Retail Sales Tax	Gasoline Tax
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
British Columbia	47.5	10.0	8	16	7	20
Alberta	**43.5**	—	**5**	**11**	—	—
Saskatchewan	51.0	12.0	10	14	5	—
Manitoba	54.0	20.0	10	16	6	16
Ontario	50.4	—	—	14/15	7	20
Quebec	n/a*	—	n/a*	n/a*	9	30
New Brunswick	58.0	—	9	14	10	20
Prince Edward Island	52.5	—	—	10	10	22
Nova Scotia	56.5	—	10	15	10	20
Newfoundland	60.0	—	12	16	12	22

* Quebec has its own tax system, which requires a separate calculation of taxable income.

Source: Alberta Treasury – 1984 Budget Address

International Trade

Canada is the world's seventh largest trading nation, behind the United States, West Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, Netherlands and France. In terms of exports per capita, Canada ranks second in the world. The value of export sales in 1981 was $84.1 billion, while imports rose to $77.5 billion.

Agricultural products make up a significant portion of goods exported from the Edmonton market area.

1981 Canadian Exports By Commodity Category
($ thousands)

Food Products	**$ 9,176,054**
Live Animals	228,787
Meat and Fish	2,109,802
Dairy Products	249,626
Cereals	5,313,147
Other	1,274,692
Crude Materials	**$15,168,150**
Metal Ores, et al	4,041,546
Crude Petroleum	2,504,968
Natural Gas	4,370,050
Coal	1,146,950
Other	3,104,636
Fabricated Materials	**$30,534,635**
Wood and Paper	12,610,089
Textiles	266,437
Chemicals	4,634,042
Iron and Steel	2,318,793
Non Ferrous Metals	5,413,312
Other	5,291,902
End Products	**$25,129,044**
Industrial Machinery	2,730,995
Agricultural Machinery	884,588
Transportation Equipment	15,521,625
Equipment and Tools	2,307,647
Other	3,684,189

1981 Canadian Imports By Commodity Category
($ thousands)

Food Products	**$ 4,979,199**
Meat and Fish	688,995
Fruit and Vegetables	1,801,692
Other	2,488,512
Crude Materials	**$12,149,986**
Metal Ores, et al	1,865,116
Coal	836,691
Crude Petroleum	7,854,489
Other	1,593,690
Fabricated Materials	**$14,529,038**
Wood and Paper	1,173,913
Textiles	1,423,992
Chemicals	3,810,670
Iron and Steel	2,263,095
Non Ferrous Metals	2,194,494
Other	3,662,874
End Products	**$45,801,474**
Machinery – General	2,716,066
Industrial Machinery	4,572,178
Agricultural Machinery	2,383,608
Transportation Equipment	19,084,436
Equipment and Tools	9,923,488
Other	7,121,698

In 1981, Alberta's international exports amounted to 23% of its GDP, for a value of $9.44 billion. This represents 11.6% of Canada's total export trade. Alberta's major export commodities were: raw materials (69.2%), fabricated materials (17.6%), food products (5.77%), end products (6.4%), other (4.9%). Alberta's major market areas are the United States, the Pacific Rim and the European Economic Community.

Edmonton represents a logical location within western Canada to establish and develop international trading operations. The city, as noted earlier, offers important economic and strategic advantages as a trade and distribution centre. Numerous business opportunities exist in exporting Alberta commodities to the international markets and importing material and products for the expanding western Canadian market.

Import opportunities exist for a wide variety of items required for the western Canadian market.

1981 Canadian Exports To Area and Country
($ thousands)

Western Europe	**$10,018,243**
United Kingdom	3,321,273
Belgium-Luxembourg	801,770
France	962,744
West Germany	1,270,442
Italy	920,400
Netherlands	1,143,071
Eastern Europe	**$ 2,335,847**
USSR	1,861,809
Middle East	**$ 1,498,667**
Saudi Arabia	455,198
Africa (Other)	**$ 1,225,794**
Asia-Pacific	**$ 8,362,671**
Peoples Republic of China	990,248
Japan	4,487,532
Australia	773,872
South America	**$ 1,894,277**
Brazil	675,284
Central America	**$ 1,865,188**
Mexico	714,887
United States	**$53,669,347**

1981 Canadian Imports From Area and Country
($ thousands)

Western Europe	**$ 7,816,650**
United Kingdom	2,233,725
France	846,609
West Germany	1,603,444
Italy	695,525
Eastern Europe	**$ 349,359**
USSR	77,636
Middle East	**$ 2,721,370**
Saudi Arabia	2,266,015
Africa (Other)	**$ 1,049,485**
Asia-Pacific	**$ 7,535,639**
Hong Kong	673,457
Japan	4,039,697
South Korea	607,784
Taiwan	729,062
Australia	496,320
South America	**$ 3,240,195**
Venezuela	2,384,982
Central America	**$ 1,819,657**
Mexico	970,850
United States	**$54,131,443**

Exchange Guidelines and Investment Climate

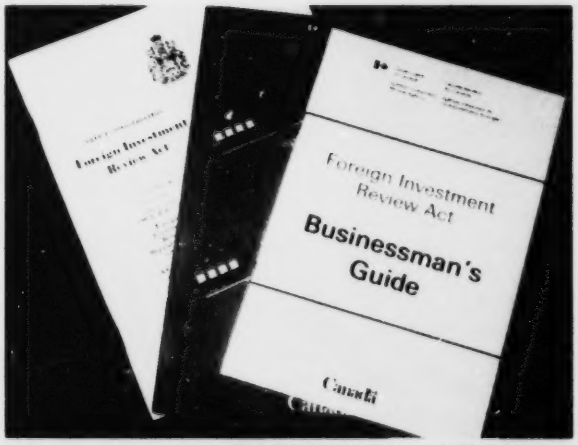
Canada has no exchange controls and there are no restrictions on the repatriation of capital or earnings of a Canadian business to non-resident investors.

There are no exchange restrictions on borrowing from abroad, remitting dividends, profits, interest, royalties and similar payments, management fees, loan repayments, and settlement of trade debts.

Government Attitude Toward international Investment

The attitude of the federal government toward international investment is to welcome all investments that can be of significant benefit to Canada. Generally, the Foreign Investment Review Act requires government screening of any acquisition of a Canadian business or the start-up of new non-related business. Virtually all well documented investment applications have been approved.

Edmonton welcomes international investment.



The Edmonton Economic Development Authority can advise international investors of the procedures for starting a business.

Alberta – Highest Investment Rate of All Canadian Provinces

Canada is dependent on the influx of international capital for the development of its huge economic potential. This particularly applies to Canada's growing western provinces. Foreign capital plays an important role in significant sectors of Alberta's economy. Over the past decades investments in Alberta have grown enormously. Investment per capita in the province has increased more than tenfold in the past 30 years. Whereas in 1971 private and public investment amounted to $2.7 billion in Alberta, by 1981 it had risen to $18.3 billion.

The province of Alberta has a great need for capital. In 1981, investments were 35.5% of Alberta's gross national product. Private investment is by far the dominant factor with a 90% share between 1976 and 1981. During this period, investments in Alberta increased by an annual average of 20.5%, more than double the rate in the rest of Canada.

In that same period, Alberta's share of total Canadian investments rose from 16% to 22%. Investments per capita in Alberta are double the Canadian average, and the highest of all Canadian provinces. In 1974 Alberta per capita investment was $2,733, almost one and a half times the Canadian average of $1,881. By 1980, Alberta per capita investment had grown to $8,171 representing a 300% increase from 1974, while the Canadian average demonstrated growth of 200% to $3,589 per capita.

Alberta's government welcomes foreign investment. The only restrictions imposed by the province on foreign investment apply to agricultural land. In the future, Alberta is expected to achieve above-average profit from investments in Canada.

Financial Activity

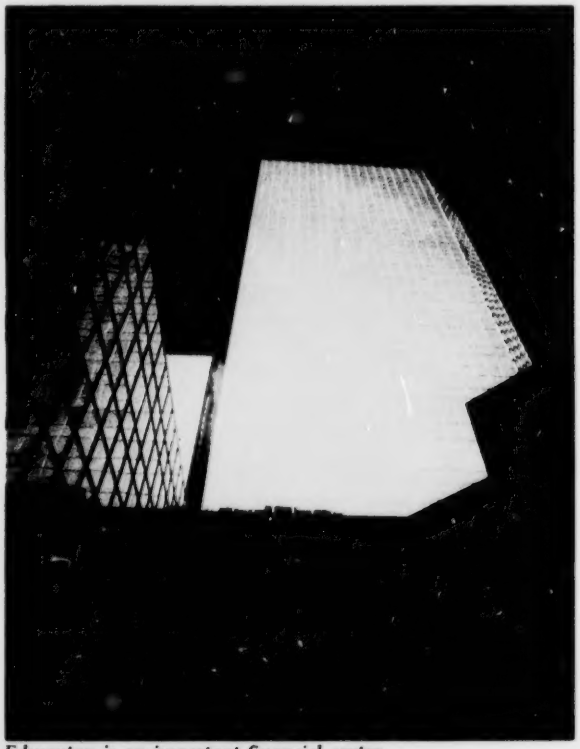
Edmonton's importance as a financial community is evidenced by the establishment of financial national head offices of banks such as the Canadian Commercial Bank and the Bank of Alberta.

Of the eleven largest financial firms located in Alberta, eight maintain their head office in Edmonton.

Canada's major chartered banks have also established Northern Alberta and regional headquarter operations in Edmonton. A number of foreign international banks are also located in the city. Among them are:

- Hongkong Bank of Canada
- Midland Bank Canada
- Standard Chartered Bank of Canada
- Barclays Bank of Canada
- Banque Nationale de Paris (Canada)
- Bank of America Canada
- Seattle-First Bank Canada
- Morguard Bank of Canada
- Société Générale SA (Canada) Inc.

Although Alberta's current population represents just under 9% of the Canadian total, the chartered banks located here were responsible for over 23% of the Canadian commercial loan activity in 1981. Alberta's commercial loans in 1976 totalled about $2.5 billion and have grown to over $16 billion in 1981. This activity level represents a 630% increase over the five year period. For a copy of the **Edmonton Financial Industry Report,** contact the Edmonton Economic Development Authority.



Edmonton is an important financial centre in western Canada.

Entrepreneurial – Immigration Guidelines

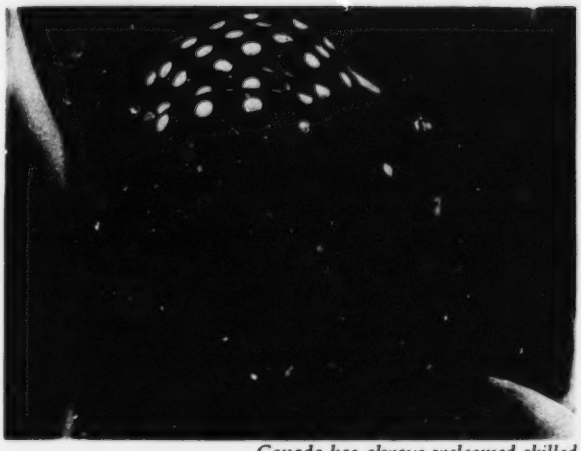
New legislation effective January 1, 1984, promotes the admission of entrepreneurs as immigrants. The new legislation includes a higher processing priority for entrepreneurial applicants. Specially trained entrepreneurial development officers are posted in various countries, and a two year provisional admission exists for all qualified applicants.

Immigration applicants who have firm business commitments that create jobs for Canadians will continue to be admitted as landed immigrants. The counselling, selection and processing of business applicants will be completed on a priority basis.

Alberta Business Immigration Program

The following guidelines are used as a means to generally identify those ventures which qualify for Entrepreneurial Immigration:

1) satisfies the objectives of the Government of Canada as set forth in the Immigration Act;
2) complies with the industrial and economic policies of Alberta;
3) intends to establish an "active business" which manufactures products, produces or processes goods; provides services; or sells merchandise as a wholesaling, retailing or distributing enterprise;
4) does not involve a "passive business" which collects interest, dividends, or rent from existing properties; lends money, or purchases real estate for potential capital gains; and,
5) the applicant will be assuming an active management role in the ongoing operation of the business.



Canada has always welcomed skilled immigrants.

Government Incentives for Business

The federal and provincial governments offer a wide range of industrial and tax incentives programs that can be of substantial benefit to business.

The following list of organizations and programs provide an example of the assistance available to industry. Assistance is provided in many forms, including grants, loan guarantees and tax incentives.

- Product Development Program
- Industrial Research Assistance Program
- Market Development Assistance Program
- Export Market Development Program
- Defense Industry Productivity Program
- Canadian International Development Agency
- Microelectronics Support Program
- Enterprise Development Program
- Export Development Corporation
- Federal Business Development Bank
- Alberta Opportunity Company

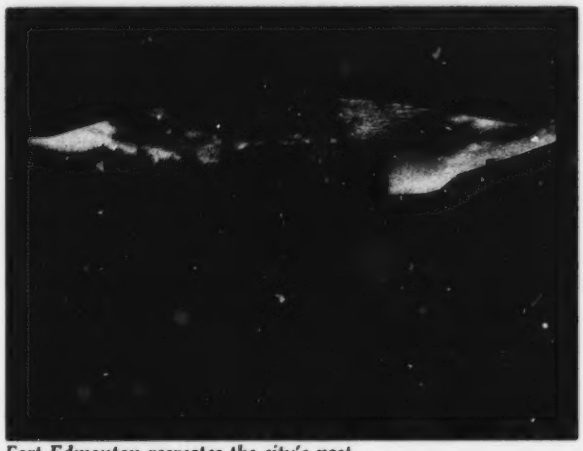
Edmonton's Quality of Life

History

In the late 1700's, Fort Edmonton grew from a fur trading centre to an agricultural community during the 1800's. In 1904, Edmonton became a city and was selected as the capital city of the province of Alberta in 1905.

The Edmonton economy continued to grow with the discovery of oil at nearby Leduc in 1947, and a broader based economy developed.

Today, Edmonton assumes an important role as a Canadian economic centre. Its future is bright.



Fort Edmonton recreates the city's past.

Ethnic Mosaic

One of the positive aspects of living in Edmonton which newcomers enjoy, is the remarkably rich ethnic mix which characterizes the city's population. There are approximately 400 ethnic organizations in Edmonton, which play an active role in the city's business, cultural and social environment.

Over 400 ethnic groups contribute to Edmonton's multicultural diversity.

Culture/Entertainment

As Edmonton has grown, so have its cultural and entertainment facilities.

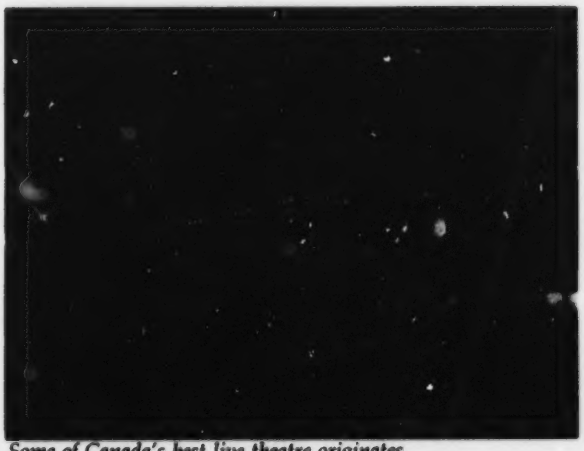
There are 10 live theatre companies in Edmonton. The Citadel Theatre is acclaimed as one of the finest theatres in Canada, providing performances of an international calibre.

The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra offers regular concert seasons filled with variations of classical and popular music. The Edmonton Opera Association is one of the most successful opera companies in Canada, and the Alberta Ballet Company is the only classical ballet company west of Winnipeg.

There are numerous art galleries in Edmonton. The Edmonton Art Gallery features major travelling art exhibited throughout the year.

Night Life

Edmonton's night life provides for every taste. Cabarets, live theatre, lounges – entertainment of all kinds can be found throughout the city in the many fine hotels and restaurants, all within easy reach by car or public transit.



Some of Canada's best live theatre originates from Edmonton's Citadel Theatre.

Recreation/Sports

Edmonton's extensive parkland provides year-round recreation facilities for city residents. There are 4,450 hectares (11,000 acres) of parkland in Edmonton. These park areas provide a wide assortment of tennis courts, golf courses, picnic sites and swimming pools. Major community centres provide for a wide range of recreational activities. The city provides a variety of recreation programs ranging from basic introductory lessons to the advanced level in all kinds of sports and crafts.

Within automobile driving distance of Edmonton are numerous lakes, parks and mountain resort areas. These resorts provide a wide variety of recreational activities including skiing, fishing, hunting, camping and hiking.

Shopping

Edmontonians enjoy modern shopping facilities in numerous locations throughout the city. There are over 25 shopping centres in Metro Edmonton.

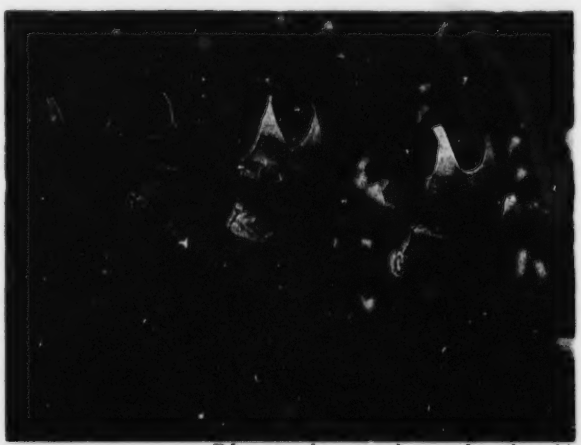
Education

Edmonton offers its residents excellent educational facilities. The educational system provides a broad choice of schooling for citizen needs. Special facilities include schools for the physically and mentally handicapped as well as for children with learning disabilities.

The University of Alberta with an enrolment of over 23,000 full time students is Canada's second largest university. It offers post-secondary education (19 faculties in all) at the bachelor, master and doctoral levels. Additional post-secondary educational facilities include the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, one of Canada's largest technical institutes, offering 56 business, industrial and vocational programs.

Ballet is a part of Edmonton's lively arts scene.

Edmonton's many ethnic restaurants offer a taste of international cuisine.



Edmonton has staged a number of world-scale sporting competitions.

Medical Services

Edmontonians have access to a comprehensive health system. The city's health services offer a full range of diagnostic and treatment facilities.

There are six active treatment hospitals.

The Walter C. MacKenzie Health Sciences Centre is acknowledged to be one of the most advanced hospitals in North America.

Media

Edmonton's 18 radio stations provide citizens with an entire spectrum of broadcasting styles including country and western, classic and ethnic programs.

Edmonton is served by two daily newspapers. There are also a number of weekly newspapers.

Edmonton has four local TV stations. Two cable TV companies provide local community programming, an educational channel plus all of the American networks. Pay TV is also available from the cable companies.

Police and Fire Protection

The City of Edmonton Police Department has a modern, well-disciplined force. The Edmonton Fire Department operates from 22 fire stations with over 1,000 employees.

Public Transportation

Edmonton has one of the most innovative transit systems in Canada with a network of bus routes serving every part of the city. In 1978 Edmonton became the first city in North America, with a population base of under one million, to have a light rail transit system. Handicapped citizens are served by a public door-to-door transportation system.

The University of Alberta in Edmonton is Canada's second largest university.

Edmonton's new W.C. MacKenzie Health Sciences Centre provides comprehensive patient care and research.

Light rail transit offers convenient and comfortable public transportation.

Climate

Edmonton enjoys four seasons. Summers are warm, with daytime temperatures averaging 22°C (72°F) and evening temperatures cooling to a pleasant 15°C (60°F). Winter is characterized by clear skies, low humidity and little wind. In January, the average depth of snow is 20 cm (7.9 in.), while the daytime high temperature averages 10°C (14°F). Spring and autumn are sunny and mild.

With an average annual snowfall of 140 cm (55 in.), Edmonton is an ideal city for winter sports enthusiasts.

Temperatures the rest of the year make for enjoyable hiking, cycling, golf, tennis, and camping. Edmonton has an average of more than six hours of sunshine each day. In June, there are up to 16 hours of daylight per day.

The chart below illustrates how Edmonton compares to other major Canadian cities in a number of climatic comfort factors.

Edmontonians enjoy their city year-round.

Edmonton's many parks add to the city's quality of life.

Climate Summary

	Days with Frost	Hours of Bright Sunshine	Mean Total Precipitation (mm)	Average Wind Speed (km/h)	January Wind Chill Normals (C)
Vancouver	57	1,931	1,068	12	– 2
Calgary	201	2,207	437	17	–18
Edmonton	**192**	**2,246**	**446**	**15**	**–17**
Winnipeg	195	2,232	535	19	–28
Toronto	120	2,046	790	17	–13
Montreal	153	1,959	942	16	–18

Source: Environment Canada – 30 Year Normals
Meteorological Branch, Department of Transport – Ottawa

Cost of Living

Edmonton offers residential property taxes which are among the lowest in Canada. It also has the lowest gasoline tax and no estate tax.

Residents of Edmonton enjoy below average transportation costs. Alberta residents generally enjoy lower costs than most other Canadian cities in the areas of household operation, health and personal care, and tobacco and alcohol.

Edmontonians can choose from a wide range of accommodations.

Cost of Living Comparison Model

This model was developed on the basis of equivalent purchases of various commodities and an equivalent home for the communities listed.

Cost of Living Summary

	Montreal	Ottawa	Toronto	Winnipeg	**Edmonton**	Vancouver
Gross Income	$35,000	$35,000	$35,000	$35,000	**$35,000**	$35,000
Provincial and Federal Income Tax	(10,451)	(8,147)	(8,147)	(8,593)	**(7,728)**	(8,035)
Disposable Income	24,549	26,853	26,853	26,407	**27,272**	26,965
Taxable Expenditures and Sales Tax	(5,400)	(5,350)	(5,350)	(5,250)	**(5,000)**	(5,300)
Utility and other Non-housing Costs	(7,810)	(7,329)	(7,257)	(7,386)	**(6,950)**	(7,162)
Housing Costs (Principal, Interest, Taxes	(6,606)	(8,404)	(8,925)	(7,965)	**(8,906)**	(11,132)
Cash Savings	4,733	5,770	5,321	5,806	**6,416**	3,371
House Appreciation	4,640	4,300	3,230	3,570	**4,040**	4,060
Principal Paid	307	458	496	410	**512**	620
Total Savings	$9,680	$10,528	$9,047	$9,786	**$10,968**	$8,051

Source: Edmonton Economic Development Authority, An Inter-City Cost of Living Comparison – Spring 1982 (housing updated January 1983)

References

The following is a list of selected references used in compiling this report:

Alberta Bureau of Statistics
- Alberta Economic Accounts
- Alberta Statistical Review, Annual
- Alberta Statistical Review, Quarterly
- Alberta Principal Manufacturing Statistics
- Alberta Retail and Service Trade Statistics

Alberta Treasury
- 1984 Budget Address

Statistics Canada
- Financial Institutions
- Market Research Handbook
- Private and Public Investment in Canada
- Provincial Economic Accounts

Edmonton Economic Development Authority
- Edmonton Financial Industry Report
- Metro Edmonton Manufacturing and Distribution Report
- 1983 Edmonton Annual Economic Report
- Welcome to Edmonton Helpful Facts
- Western Canadian Industrial Projects Directory

Acknowledgements

The Edmonton Economic Development Authority acknowledges with appreciation, the contribution of the following people in the preparation of this report:

Mr. Ed. Shaske
Alberta Economic Development

Mr. Richard McDuffe
Banque Nationale de Paris

Mr. Graham T. Jones
Berdean Management & Realty Ltd.

Mr. John C. Dowie
Cambier Investments Ltd.

Mr. Robert McCorquodale
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

Mr. Dick B. Wong
Chinalta Resources Ltd.

Mr. John Ranaldi
Hongkong Bank of Canada

Mr. Rick Wong
Reed Tool Company of Canada Ltd.

Mr. Robert Gray
Richardson Greenshields of Canada Ltd.

Mr. Donn Larsen
Royal Danish Consul

Mr. Thomas Yarmon
Tankoos Yarmon (Alta) Ltd.

Mr. Kurt Bieir
Vice Consul Thailand

Mr. Donald Lee
Witten Vogel Binder & Lyons

Other Publications

The following is a partial list of other business publications available from the Authority.

1983 Edmonton Annual Economic Report
A summary of the structure and performance of the Edmonton economy, including information on industry, resources, labour force base, demographics and lifestyle. The publication contains numerous tables and graphs showing five year trends.

Metro Edmonton Major Construction Projects Directory
A comprehensive listing of construction projects for Metro Edmonton. Complete descriptions and contacts for construction projects over $1 million are included.

Western Canadian Industrial Projects Directory
Identifies $115 billion of investment in western Canada. Fifty-four per cent or over $62 billion are located within the Edmonton service area.

Industrial Land Sampling
Lists over 50 available industrial areas and parks with information concerning price, parcel sizes and access.

Metro Edmonton Labour Review
A comprehensive analysis of the Edmonton labour market. It provides labour demographics, current labour costs and various inter-city labour comparisons.

Metro Edmonton Manufacturing and Distribution Report
Provides an analysis and justification of Edmonton as a manufacturing and distribution centre within Alberta and western Canada.

Edmonton High Technology Development Report
Examines the locational factors important for siting a research facility and Edmonton's ability to meet those needs.